MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : There is a slight fall.

MR. MURUKUMPUZHA V. KUNJUKRISHNAN : May I know whether any steps are taken by the Department to grow fish on a scientific basis?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : The fishing section has been transferred to the University and there investigation on the matter will be conducted.

MR. MURUKUMPUZHA V. KUJUKRISHNAN : May I know whether any portion of the backwaters is set apart for growing fish on a scientific basis?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR ; No, Sir.

Manufacture of cement in Travancore.

214 *MR. K. R. NARAYANAN : Will the Government be pleased to state whether there is a proposal to start the manufacture of cement in Travancore under the responsibility of Government?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS : The necessary investigations are being made.

Edathua Thalavady River.

215 *MR. N. NARAYANA KURUP (*Ambalapuzha* cum *Sheriala*) : Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the Edathua Thalavady river is navigable during hot season;

(*b*) if not, whether the Government used to dredge it annually to make it navigable;

(*c*) whether any work was done this year; and

(*d*) if not, why was it not done?

MR. M. S. DORASWAMI AIYANGAR : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) It is being annually deepened by manual labour.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) This year it was proposed to dredge with the aid of the Dredger 'Sethu Parvathi' as deepening by manual labour was not sufficiently effective. But the dredger was under repairs for some time and now the river is flooded. Dredging will be done when the flood subsides.

MR. N. NARAYANA KURUP : Sir, may I know whether the Chief Engineer by his answer 'yes' to part (a) of my question means that the river is navigable all through the year?

MR. M. S. DORASWAMI AIYANGAR : No, Sir. Not on all seasons of the year.

MR. N. NARAYANA KURUP : Then, may I know by answering 'yes' to my question whether he means that the Edathuva—Thalavadi river is navigable during hot season?

MR M. S. DORASWAMI AIYANGAR : Sir, during the hot season, small valloms go over to the jetty. I mean that the big motor and steam boats cannot go then.

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MR. N. NARAYANA KURUP: May I know why measures are not taken for deepening the river?

MR. M. S. DORASWAMI AIYANGAR; Sir, during floods, hand deepening is not possible. It was tried and was not found successful for two or three years. In fact, the portions that were deepened were observed to be silted almost as quickly as the deepening process itself were over Therefore, manual deepening was given up. The proposal now is to deepen the river by the help of the dredger, But it is not avavilable now and I may say that as soon it becomes available, steps will be taken to deepen the river effectively.

MR. N. NARAYANA KURUP: May I know whether this difficulty could not be avoided by cutting open the river at Cherimuttam?

MR. M. S. DORASWAMI AIYANGAR: This question is under consideration.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI: May I know whether the Chief Engineer has read the report of the Minor Irrigation Committee?

MR. M. S. DORASWAMI AIYANGAR: I have not read that, Sir.

Muslims and appointments in Colleges.

216 * **MR. P. S. MAHOMED** (*Quilon* cum *Kottarakara*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Muslims are totally unrepresented in the Colleges among the Professors, Lecturers and Tutors?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN: Yes.

MR. P. S. MAHOMED യോഗ്യതകളുടെ അഭാവക്ഷകന്മാർ മുന്നോട്ടു വന്നാൽ ഇപ്പോഴും പ്രാതിനിദ്ധ്യം ഇല്ല എന്നുള്ള ന്യൂനതയെ പരിഹരിക്കാൻ മേയുണ്ടാകുമോ ?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN: Certainly. Sir, I have already assured the member that if Muslims with the qualifications prescribed by the University are available, they would be preferred to candidates from more advanced communities.

Tapioca cultivation in Travancore.

217 * **MR. T. T. KESAVAN SASTRI** (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether any help is being rendered by Government for the development of tapioca cultivation in Travancore?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Yes. The Department of Agriculture is devoting its attention to augmenting the yield of tapioca. The Agricultural officers doing propaganda are advising cultivators on intensive methods of cultivation and application of scientific manures.

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